



# California Integrated Waste Management Board

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Linda Moulton-Patterson, Chair

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Gray Davis  
Governor

Winston H. Hickox  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

September 12, 2003

«Title» «First\_Name» «Last\_Name», «Job\_Title\_»  
«Agency»  
«DAA»  
«Address\_1»  
«City», «State\_» «Zip»

Dear «Title» «Last\_Name»:

As Chair of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), I would like to provide an opportunity and a reminder. The opportunity is to save money by purchasing recycled-content and other environmentally preferable products, and I would like to remind you about the importance of complete and accurate tracking and reporting for the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC).

Purchasing recycled-content products (RCP) is not only required by law; it can also reduce your organization's costs. In light of current budget constraints, I am writing to share some real-world cost savings examples with you, and to encourage you to re-double your recycled product procurement and other waste reduction efforts. I also encourage you to share your cost savings success stories regarding cleaner, greener products and practices with CIWMB staff, so that this information can be shared with others.

Many RCPs – such as remanufactured toner cartridges, latex paint, janitorial paper products, writing tablets, corrugated packaging, padded mailers, compost, mulch and many others – cost the same as or less than their non-recycled counterparts. Agencies can also save money by replacing disposable products with durable, reusable items. As State employees, we have the responsibility to spend the taxpayers' money wisely, and we are now under increased pressure to use the State's resources even more efficiently. "Waste" is often defined as an inefficient use of resources, and "resource efficiency" means doing more with less. Reducing waste conserves both financial and natural resources. Purchasing RCPs reduces waste going to landfills, because materials diverted from landfills are the feedstock for RCP manufacturers. Buying RCPs also creates jobs; creates demand for diverted recyclables; conserves natural resources and energy; and allows State agencies to attain the procurement mandates of the SABRC. A fact sheet titled "Benefits of Buying Recycled" is available on our Web site at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/).

CIWMB staff has gathered documentation regarding cost savings resulting from various environmentally preferable product purchases and waste prevention practices. The information has been formatted into a number of "mini" case studies that are enclosed with this letter and posted on our Web site at

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California Environmental Protection Agency

 Printed on Recycled Paper

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web site at <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/>*

[www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/StateAgency/AskTell/Stories.htm](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/StateAgency/AskTell/Stories.htm). As you will see, each study addresses the actual or potential savings of the waste prevention purchase or practice being presented. Here are some highlights:

- In the 2001-2002 fiscal year (FY), the CIWMB saved over \$5,000 by purchasing remanufactured laser printer toner cartridges instead of new cartridges.
- A group of 12 fairs and expositions saved at least \$5.00 per gallon of paint by purchasing recycled latex paint instead of virgin latex paint. This resulted in a savings of over \$24,000.
- California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters building manager, Thomas Properties, switched from disposable plastic bin liners to reusable cloth bin liners for recycling bins. Thomas Properties expects that this practice will result in an annual savings of over \$19,000.

I hope that these case studies provide the motivation and justification for you to pursue actions for increased RCP procurement and waste prevention at your agency, and I encourage you to support businesses that will assist you in meeting the State's recycled product procurement mandates.

Finally, I want to remind you to examine your agency's SABRC tracking and reporting procedures to ensure that all reportable purchases are captured in the annual SABRC Procurement Report. State agencies identified approximately \$233 million in reportable purchases for the 2001-2002 FY. Unfortunately, that figure is a small fraction of what should be tracked and reported each year by State government. The State spends billions of dollars annually on products, materials, and supplies. This includes all dollars spent on reportable products for building construction and renovation, public works and other capital outlay projects; and products purchased as part of service contracts. These dollars must be included in the annual SABRC Procurement Report that is due on January 1<sup>st</sup> for the previous calendar year. The final filing date is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you have any questions, or you would like to share your cost savings stories, please contact Jerry Hart, of the CIWMB's Buy Recycled Section, at (916) 341-6473 or [jhart@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:jhart@ciwmb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Moulton-Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Moulton-Patterson  
Chair

Enclosure (1)